

SOUTH AMERICA - GALAPAGOS 5 DAYS SOUTH EASTERN ISLANDS | M/C ENDEMIC



TRIP CODE

ECTSE5C

DEPARTURE

Selected Sundays

DURATION

5 Days

LOCATIONS

Ecuador. Galapagos Islands



INTRODUCTION

Located 1,000 kilometres off the coast of Ecuador are the beautiful, wildlife-rich islands of the Galapagos. Step aboard the luxurious Endemic to cruise for 5 days around the archipelago, exploring the islands of Santa Cruz, San Cristobal, Santa Fe, South Plaza and southernmost Espanola. Snorkel around impressive Kicker Rock, visit the outstanding wildlife area of Puerta Suarez, watch land iguanas feeding on prickly pear and learn more at the Charles Darwin Research Centre. This is a wonderful introduction to the amazing Galapagos Islands.

ITINERARY


DAY 1: Baltra Airport - Santa Cruz Island

On arrival at Baltra Airport, you will be met and transferred to the M/C Endemic. In the afternoon visit Dragon Hill, located in the north-western part of Santa Cruz island. Here you will have the opportunity to walk into the island and view the land iguana. Be among these magnificent reptiles, that just a few decades ago were on the brink of extinction. Moreover, at Dragon Hill you will see a flamingos' lagoon, pintail ducks and other endemic birds including flycatchers and warblers. After a short trek, amazing view awaits us up the hill. Offshore snorkeling before returning to the yacht.

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DAY 2: San Cristobal Island

In the morning, the first spot to be visited is Kicker Rock, an impressive geological formation due to erosion. This is a nesting place of sea birds. Additionally, curious sea lions, and marine life can be found, such as fish, turtles, sharks, rays, representing the main attraction for snorkeling. This is a nice spot to take pictures. The next attraction to see is Witch Hill, a tuff cone hill located south west from San Cristobal. This name comes from the Spanish name of the bird known in English as Vermilion Flycatcher. A zodiac ride will take passengers into amazing rock formations along the island shore. A white sand beach and crystal-clear waters are part of this enchanted location. Fantastic opportunity for snorkeling. In the afternoon visit Lbos Island, where a small population of blue-footed boobies, frigates, marine iguanas, and great frigate birds nesting can be observed. Snorkeling with sea lions in this calm bay is also part of the excursion.

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DAY 3: Espanola Island

Espanola Island will be explored today. You will have the chance to observe endemic wildlife such as the Hood-Mockingbird. This is the southernmost island in the Galapagos archipelago, and home to several wildlife species, including masked and blue-footed boobies. Spectacular views from the top of a cliff. In the morning, after breakfast, the first attraction to be seen is Gardner Bay that provides an excellent beach for swimming. Around the small islets nearby, snorkelers will find lots of fish and sometimes turtles and sharks. The bay is also frequented by colonies of sea lions which like to swim with you. Or visit Osborn and Gardner Islets that are amazing for underwater discovery. Snorkeling is a highlight on this visitor point. After lunch, Point Suarez will be visited, which represents one of the most outstanding wildlife areas of the archipelago, with a long list of species found along its cliffs and sand or pebble beach.

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DAY 4: Santa Fe Island - Santa Cruz Island

In the morning, after breakfast, Santa Fe island will be visited, which is one of the most entertaining destinations for shore excursions in the Galapagos Islands. It has two trail choices for visitors, one of which takes you to the tallest Opuntia cactus in the Galapagos. While the other trail takes you into the highlands where land iguanas can be seen. After a long walk, the opportunity to swim in calm waters or snorkel with playful sea lions will be pretty tempting. In the afternoon, visit the Fausto Llerena Breeding Center, which is also known as Charles Darwin Research Station. This place has an information center, a museum, a library and a tortoise breeding station. In the tortoise breeding station, you can encounter tortoises of different subspecies, which are prepared for reintroduction to their natural habitats. The most popular inhabitant of this Station is probably the Lonesome George turtle, that already died in 2012.

DAY 5: South Plaza Island - Baltra Airport

In the morning, South Plaza Island is the next island to be discovered. It has unique Sesuvium plants and Opuntia cactuses scattered across the landscape which provide some of the most interesting wildlife observations available in Galapagos. Land iguanas are easily seen from the trail, frequently under the shade of cactuses, waiting for a prickly pear to fall. After this last visit, transfer to Baltra airport for your return flight to mainland Ecuador.

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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Deluxe

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Inclusions	Accommodation All Meals and snacks Soft drinks and juices Glass of house wines for dinners Captain's Welcome and farewell cocktail Bilingual Naturalist Guided excursions Transfers in Galapagos Islands Wetsuits Bufs Snorkelling Equipment Sea Kayaks Water container
	Exclusions: Flights to/from Galapagos Islands Galapagos National Park Entrance Fee Galapagos Transit Control Card Tipping Items of a personal nature
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request
Notes	Contact us for more details
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability

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SUSTAINABILITY

Chimu Adventures undertakes a number of sustainability measures within its operations including:

- 1) Only using local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprints. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting.
- 2) Where possible, using locally owned and operated boutique hotels to maximise the return to the local community.
- 3) Chimu's "Pass it on" programme has provided funding to hundreds of local community projects in Latin America. Our aim is to empower local communities, helping them to develop their own infrastructure for the future. Since 2006, we have been working with Kiva (a well-known Non-Governmental Organisation), providing hundreds of loans to local businesses all over South America.
- 4) In our pre tour information we provide a range of tips and advice on how to minimise your impact on both local environments and communities.
- 5) Chimu Adventures' offices also take a number of sustainability measures including

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carbon offsets for company vehicles and most staff travel. Chimu Adventure's internal processes are also structures to create a paperless office and to reduce waste. There are also internal programmes to help staff minimise their carbon footprint such as our staff bike purchase assistance plan which encourages office staff to commute to work via bicycle. Currently almost half of our office based staff commute to work via bicycle.

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